

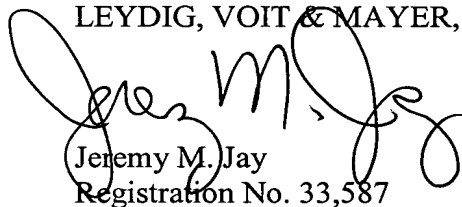
REMARKS

The specification has been amended to include a reference to the PCT application, and to indicate that this is the national stage of the PCT application. The specification has also been amended to correct the obvious error in the priority application number, and this amendment merely reflects the rectification made during the international stage. The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. New claims 41-48 have been added and are directed to embodiments of the invention. Claims 1-48 are pending. A complete set of pending claims is attached. No new matter is added by way of this Preliminary Amendment.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HOU et al.

Application No. Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: Herewith

Examiner: Unassigned

For: **NEGATIVELY CHARGED
MEMBRANE**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION AND
CLAIMS MADE VIA PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Amendments to paragraph 1:

This application is a 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT/US00/04745, filed on February 25, 2000,
which ~~This application~~ claims priority of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/128,668
60/121,668, filed on February 25, 1999, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by
reference in its entirety.

Amendments to existing claims:

3. (Amended) The negatively charged microporous membrane of claim ~~1 or 2~~, wherein the N-(hydroxyalkyl)- or N-(alkoxyalkyl)- acrylamide includes an alkyl group of 4 carbon atoms or less.
4. (Amended) The negatively charged microporous membrane of ~~any of claims 1-3~~, claim 1, wherein the crosslinked coating includes a hydroxyl-rich material.
6. (Amended) The negatively charged microporous membrane of ~~any of claims 1-5~~, claim 1, wherein said negatively charged group is a sulfonic or carboxylic acid.
18. (Amended) The negatively charged microporous membrane of ~~any of claims 1-17~~, claim 1, wherein said polymer includes an N-(alkoxymethyl) acrylamide.
21. (Amended) The negatively charged microporous membrane of ~~any of claims 1-20~~ claim 1 having a dynamic protein binding capacity of about 25 mg/ml lysozyme or more.

23. (Amended) The negatively charged microporous membrane of ~~any of claims 1-22,~~ claim 1, wherein said porous substrate comprises a substrate polymer.

26. (Amended) The negatively charged microporous membrane of ~~any of claims 1-22,~~ claim 1, wherein said porous substrate is hydrophilic.

29. (Amended) The process of claim 27 ~~or 28~~, wherein said negatively charged group is a sulfonic or carboxylic acid.

30. (Amended) The process of ~~any of claims 27-29,~~ claim 27, wherein said unsaturated monomer having a negatively charged group is an acrylic monomer having a sulfonic or carboxylic acid group.

33. (Amended) The process of ~~any of claims 27-32,~~ claim 27, wherein said porous substrate comprises a substrate polymer.

34. (Amended) The negatively charged microporous membrane prepared by the process of ~~any of claims 27-33,~~ claim 27.

35. (Amended) A device comprising the negatively charged microporous membrane of ~~any of claims 1-26 and 34,~~ claim 1.

36. (Amended) A process for separating positively charged material from a fluid, said process comprising placing said fluid in contact with the negatively charged microporous membrane of ~~any of claims 1-26 and 34,~~ claim 1, so as to adsorb the positively charged material to said membrane.

38. (Amended) A process for transferring biomolecules from an electrophoresis gel comprising contacting said electrophoresis gel with a membrane of ~~any of claims 1-27 and 34,~~ claim 1 and transferring the biomolecules to the membrane.

40. (Amended) The process of claim 38 ~~or 39~~, further including recovering the positively charged material adsorbed on the membrane.